

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for decontaminating contamination containing biological spores, comprising the steps of:  
contacting the contamination with a spore germination composition comprising from about 10 mM to about 150 mM dipicolinic acid and an ~~effective~~ amount of calcium ions having a one-to-one ratio with the dipicolinic acid effective to cause rapid germination of the spores; ~~and,~~  
and  
concurrently, applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores, the decontaminating solution comprising amine oxide.
- 2-3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50 mM to about 90 mM dipicolinic acid.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calcium ions comprise calcium chloride.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM calcium chloride.
- 8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50% w/w to about 98% w/w water of the total spore germination composition.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition further comprises a surfactant.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one carbon chain of from about six carbon members or more.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the surfactant comprises from about 5% w/w to about 15% w/w of the total spore germination composition.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises enzymes.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises a peroxygen compound.
- 17-22. (Cancelled)
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM dipicolinic acid.